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**offset**  
*noun*

Something to make up for loss or damage:  
amends, compensation, indemnification, indemnity,  
quittance, recompense, redress, reimbursement,  
remuneration, reparation, repayment, requital,  
restitution, satisfaction, setoff.  
See substitute.

*verb*

1. To act as an equalizing weight or force to:  
balance, compensate, counteract, counterbalance,  
counterpoise, countervail, make up, set off.  
See order.
2. To make up for:  
balance, compensate, counterbalance, counterpoise,  
countervail, neutralize, outweigh, redeem, set off.  
See substitute.

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*Roget's II: The New Thesaurus, Third Edition*

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**off·set**  Listen: [ ôf'sět', ɔf'- ]

(Pronunciation Key)

*n.*

1. An agent, element, or thing that balances, counteracts, or compensates for something else.
2. One thing set off or developed from something else.
3. The start or initial stage; the outset.
4. *Architecture* A ledge or recess in a wall formed by a reduction in thickness above; a setoff.
5. *Botany* A shoot that develops laterally at the base of a plant, often rooting to form a new plant.
6. *Geology* A spur of a mountain range or hills.
7. A bend in a pipe, bar, or other straight continuous piece made to allow it to pass around an obstruction.
8. A short distance measured perpendicularly from the main line in surveying, used to help in calculating the area of an irregular plot.
9. A descendant of a race or family; an offshoot.
10. *Printing* **a.** An unintentional or faulty transfer of wet ink from a printed sheet to another surface in contact with it. Also called *setoff*. **b.** Offset printing.

**v. off·set, off·set·ting, off·sets** (ôf'sět', ɔf'-, ôf-sět', ɔf'-)

*v. tr.*

1. To counterbalance, counteract, or compensate for: *fringe benefits designed to offset low salaries.*
2. *Printing* **a.** To cause (printed matter) to transfer or smear onto another surface. **b.** To produce by offset printing.
3. To make or form an offset in (a wall, bar, or pipe).

*v. intr.*

1. To develop, project, or be situated as an offset.
2. Printing To become marked by or cause an unintentional transfer of ink.

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**off·set'** *adv. & adj.*

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